

Average Statewide Charges

Frequently Asked Questions

What is shown on the price list?

The price list shows average statewide prices for the 15 most common procedures inpatients received at Maine hospitals in 2002. These procedures have standard definitions, so you can compare the price of a procedure across different hospitals. Plain language is included under each one of the medical terms.

Why do prices vary by hospital?

For a variety of reasons: the hospital's size, the mix of patients it serves, the types and quantities of service it performs, and its arrangements with health insurance companies all play a role in what a hospital charges.

Is the price charged the amount I will actually pay?

It depends on who you are and what your health insurance and employment status is. Health insurance companies and hospitals negotiate payment amounts that are actually less than the amount charged. When employers purchase health insurance for their employees, larger employers can often negotiate lower prices than smaller companies can, because they have more buying-power (they buy in "bulk").

- If you have health insurance through your employer, you pay some portion of what your employer has worked out with your health insurance company and what your health insurance company has worked out with the hospital.
- People without insurance are the ones who are required to pay the full charged amount, because they are not part of a group and have no one buying for them; they are on their own – at least until the Dirigo Health Plan becomes effective this July.

Statewide Average Inpatient Hospital Charges for 15 Most Common Diagnoses*

DRG	Description	Average Charge
Childbirth Related		
391 - Normal Newborn	Hospital charges for the newborn. Newly delivered babies without significant health problems.	\$1,274
373 - Normal Childbirth	Hospital charges for the mother. Normal delivery of a baby or babies without surgery.	\$3,773
371 - Cesarean Section	Hospital charges for the mother. Normal delivery of a baby or babies through incisions made in the mother's abdomen.	\$7,735
390 - Neonates with other Significant Problems	Hospital charges for the newborn. Baby has complications such as skin disorders, low temperature, feeding problems, cyst. Complications do not require extended hospital stays or intensive care.	\$1,905
Psychoses or Drug Related		
430 - Psychoses	Major personality disorders such schizophrenia, catatonia, manic disorders, bipolar affective disorders, and paranoia.	\$13,048
523 - Alcohol or Drug Abuse w/o Rehabilitation & Complications	Drug overdose or alcohol withdrawal, w/out rehabilitation and complications	\$4,647
Other		
127 - Heart Failure and Shock	Conditions related to weakening heart muscles as a result of high blood pressure, rheumatic heart disease, and congestive heart failure.	\$10,520
14 - Stroke	Stroke and related conditions, such as bleeding in the brain and sudden obstruction or blockage of blood vessels in the brain.	\$13,770
89 - Pneumonia Age 17 or Older with Complications	Bacterial, viral, and bronchial pneumonia, pleurisy, and tuberculosis.	\$10,725
88 - COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)	Lung disease, chronic bronchitis and emphysema.	\$9,584
143 - Chest Pain	Chest pain.	\$5,428
359 - Hysterectomy	Surgical removal of the uterus through either a vaginal approach or an abdominal incision. May include a bladder repair for stress urinary incontinence. May include the biopsy and/or removal of the fallopian tubes, ovaries.	\$8,360
209 - Joint Replacement and Limb Reattachment	Major joint replacements and revisions of lower extremities such as the hip, knee and ankle.	\$23,607
182 - Digestive Disorders	Conditions related to the esophagus, stomach, and	\$8,447

Age 17 or Older with Complications	intestines, such as salmonella, food poisoning, infectious diarrhea, intestinal parasites, persistent vomiting, heartburn, gas and abdominal pain.	
296 - Nutritional & Misc Metabolic Dis Over Age 17 with Complications	Used for a wide range of conditions related to nutrition or metabolism	\$9,082

*This list displays the average statewide charge for the 15 most commonly performed inpatient procedures in Maine hospitals statewide in 2002, summarized by Diagnosis Related Group (DRG), as reported by the Maine Health Data Organization. These procedures have standard definitions, so you can compare the price of a procedure across different hospitals. Charges do not include hospital-based physician charges. Individual hospitals' most commonly-performed procedures might not identically match the list of procedures most commonly-performed statewide. Every patient is different and has unique needs, so his or her care will be tailored to meet those needs and actual charges may differ. However, on average, charges for the most common types of services will reflect those listed above.